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of those whom the Danes slew. Would it not be reasonable to suppose that the old warrior in such a burst of exhortation would conjure by the name of one who was either an outstandingly great leader, or was otherwise especially dear to the memory of the younger man? The total absence of evidence to prove the first, suggests the possibility of the second alternative.

Of course, the whole thing is, in the mouth of Beowulf, a prophecy of events yet to occur; but is there not a chance that the poet knew the later fact, that the young Heathobard who precipitated the fight was the son of Wiðerþyld?

Chambers suggests that the old warrior's speech may be a quotation or an adaptation from an Ingeld lay.³ The discovery of such an original might establish the truth or the groundlessness of my conjecture, for which I adduce no definite proof, but which I offer as at least reasonable.

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Tennyson's lines on Christopher North, in which he is addressed as "crusty, rusty, musty, fusty Christopher," have amusing parallels in *Mucedorus*, III, v:

ould rustie, dustie, mustie, fustie, crustie firebran;

and in Randolph's *Hey for Honesty*, II, i:

rusty—musty—crusty—fusty—dusty old dotard.

Among the anticipations of Poe's theory that poems should be brief may be cited Felltham's *Resolves* (Ed. of 1696) p. 98:

The wittiest Poets have all been *short*, and changing soon their *Subject* Poetry should be rather like a Coranto, *short*, and *nimbly-lofty*; than a *dull lesson*, of a day long. Nor can it be but *deadish*, if *distended*.

Parallels to the argument in *Comus*, 706-755, may be cited from the speech of Colax in Randolph's *The Muse's Looking-Glass*, II, iii:

Nature has been bountiful
To provide pleasures, and shall we be niggards
At plenteous boards? He's a discourteous guest
That will observe a diet at a feast. . . .
Not to enjoy
All pleasures and at full, were to make nature
Guilty of what she ne'er was guilty of—
A vanity in her works.

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³ *Widsith*, p. 80.